



Council on Developmental Services



Dannel P. Malloy
Governor

DRAFT Minutes of Thursday, September 12, 2013

Location: DDS Central Office, Conference Room A

In attendance: Patti Silva, Chair; Jack Frost, Vice Chair; ; Jamie Lazaroff, Secretary; Adrienne Benjamin; Jim Heffernan; Dr. Terrence Macy, Ex-Officio; Dr. John Pelegano

Absent: Jennifer Carroll; David Hadden; Shelia Mulvey; Lou Richards; Patrick Vingo

Staff: Michelle Bacry, Executive Secretary; Christine Pollio Cooney, Director, Legislative and Executive Affairs; Sergeant Shane Hassett, Director of Investigations; Edward Mambruno, Ombudsperson

Chairperson Patti Silva opened the meeting at 6:12 P.M.

Public Comment

Dr. Rosaline Burton Robertson, Executive Director, Easter Seals and Pastor David Washington attended the council meeting to learn more about the Department of Developmental Services.

Presentation: Self Advocate Coordinators

The Department of Developmental Services Self Advocate Coordinators (SACs) presented "Self Advocacy Making a Difference!" This presentation was presented by SACS from throughout the state. The North region was represented by Carlos Colon, Varian Salters and Jamar Cherry, the South region was represented by Genna Lewis, Carol Grabbe and Latasha Linwood and the West region was represented by Jamie Louchen and Jossie Torres. Sarah Liebeskind and Jeffrey Shimkevich were unable to attend.

Each SAC presented on their different areas of work including, but not limited to, promoting self-advocacy, consumer involvement, developing leaders, regional and state activities and spreading the word.

The dedicated work of self-advocates is paying off. Statewide, the group has grown from a little over 250 self-advocates in 2011 to over 500 in 2013.

The work of the SACs is endless as they continue to work on the Healthy Relationships Policy for DDS, promote "people first language", train and enlist more consumers to be National Core Indicators (NCI) interviewers, promote DDS initiatives through DDS's media center by creating videos and always promoting the individual plan (IP) process by acting as an IP buddy to assist people to speak up and speak out. The SACs encouraged everyone to take time to check out the DDS Consumer Corner website at www.ct.gov/consumercorner.

Approval of July Minutes

Minutes for the July meeting were reviewed. Adrienne Benjamin made a motion, seconded by Jim Heffernan to accept the minutes with the changes. The Council voted unanimously to accept the July minutes as written.

Ombudsman's Report – Edward Mambruno, Ombudsperson

Ed Mambruno distributed his August monthly report and gave a synopsis of some of the calls he has handled during that month. Council members should contact Mr. Mambruno if they have questions regarding the July report that was previously emailed at Ed.Mambruno@ct.gov.

Legislative Update – Christine Pollio Cooney

Christine Cooney reminded council members that they should have all received a copy of the final end of session summary in early August which details legislation from the 2013 legislative session. The report is also available on the legislative affairs webpage on the DDS website:

http://www.ct.gov/dds/lib/dds/legislative/dds_legislative_summary_2013.pdf

Ms. Cooney is soliciting ideas for the 2014 session which runs from February 5 to May 7, 2014. The session is considered a “short session” as the two-year budget has already been passed and the short session is generally for budget adjustments to what has already passed. Ideas for legislative proposals will be discussed with the administration in late September or early October and will require approval. There is still time to submit ideas for consideration. Proposals requiring new funding have to be considered as part of the budget process.

The Appropriations and Human Services Committees approved the submission of a Medicaid waiver for children ages three and four with Autism Spectrum Disorder who are Medicaid eligible. The purpose of the waiver is to support children coming out of the Birth to Three program who are entering special education preschool programs and could benefit from intensive in-home supports to address significant impairments in adaptive behaviors and severe behaviors. Testimony and a factsheet about the waiver was provided to members.

Ms. Cooney informed members that the Governor’s office has received all but one application for reappointment and will be issuing the letters shortly. There are currently two vacancies and one appointment has met the three-term limit. Four additional members will reach their three-term limit within two years. Members were asked to help spread the word about the opportunity to serve on the council to individuals who may be interested.

Commissioner’s Update

Commissioner Macy reported that on September 17th & 18th the Department of Developmental services in conjunction with the Connecticut Council on Developmental Disabilities will be hosting a program entitled “Community of Practice”. This event which will consist of close to 200 participants on the 17th and a more focus group of approximately 40 on the 18th will be focused on engaging our communities to create different ways of supports.

Commissioner Macy also shared that the Governor’s Southbury Training School Task Force held its first meeting. Discussions will be centered around how the campus can be used in the future and preventing past mistakes from happening again with large parcels of property owned by the state of Connecticut. A report is due to Governor Malloy in January.

Commissioner Macy also shared that the Department is being recognized more on a national scale as agent for change. He has been asked to speak at the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS) conference in November.

Old Business

Ms. Silva reviewed the responses received to date regarding the meeting date, time and frequency. Since not all members had an opportunity to take the poll it was decided to table the discussion until the next meeting.

New Business

Jim Heffernan was pleased to relay that three individuals who were formally living at the Southbury Training School are now being supported by Oak Hill and are doing wonderful. Mr. Heffernan also shared that HARC has a new CEO Andrea Barton Reeves.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 P.M. on a motion made by Mr. Heffernan and seconded by Jamie Lazaroff.